

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2006

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, November 13, 2006 in Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Lesser called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Lesser
Vice President Duba
Treasurer Creary
Commissioner Davalos
Commissioner Jernigan
Commissioner Rodriguez
Commissioner Tanberg
Commissioner ZeBrack

Introduction of the audience followed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2006

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Tanberg, and unanimously carried, the minutes of October 23, 2006 were approved, with the following corrections: Page 4, Page 2, Item 12, 2007 Awards Luncheon Subcommittee ~~Ad-Hoc Committee~~, 2nd paragraph, 5th sentence, Treasurer Creary ~~also reported that shared the Office of Women's Health is working on a video regarding the ABC's of Women's health. booklet entitled "the ABCs of Women's Health Prevention Matters!"~~. *She also reported that through ABC7 the OWH is working on a health video that will feature interviews of women from the community with a health focus.* Page 4, 5th paragraph, Commissioner Davalos ~~was the Keynote spoke-Speaker...~~ Page 6, 4th bullet, new President ~~arva~~ *Marva Smith Battles-Bay on 10/6/06.* Page 6, 2nd paragraph, making a donation to Katy Sullivan for the 2008 ~~Special Olympics-U.S. Paralympics.~~

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lesser reported the following:

- Read a thank you letter from Pat Wilson, Conference Chair, for the Commission's sponsorship and participation in the 5th Annual Midlife and Older Women's Conference.
- Reminded Commissioners who hadn't taken Ethics training that they must do so by January 1, 2007. She asked staff to obtain additional training dates for Treasurer Creary, and Commissioners Davalos, Freeman, Gravely, and Mummey.
- Complimented Committee Chairs for making an effort to meet regularly. She noted that some meetings are held via teleconference.
- Next meeting she will review the benchmarks goals made at the retreat.

President Lesser also reported on the Association of California Commission's for Women (ACCW) Quarterly meeting attended by she and Commissioner Davalos, Vice President, ACCW on November 3-4, 2007 in Santa Rosa, CA.

The ACCW is planning their Conference for Spring of 2008 in either Santa Barbara or San Diego. They are also developing a procedural manual for the organization.

(Commissioner Gravely joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m.)

Marin County Women's Commission is currently working on a grassroots leadership guide. The Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women revised their Women's Organizations and Services Directory. The LA City Commission also prepared a salary analysis on gender equity as it relates to City employment.

Mary Wiberg, Executive Director, California Commission for Women, plans to lobby legislators for additional stipends for nursing educators in the Junior Colleges. She also reported that the CA Women's Commission Public Hearings Report will be available in Mid-December 2006.

The City of San Mateo Commission for Women will hold their Health Summit in May 2007. Commissioner Davalos suggested that the Commission adopts San Mateo Commission's "Speak Up" concept for their Community Meetings. Instead of setting a particular topic to present, women in the community would just come and express their concerns and issues.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Creary reported on expenditures for October 2006. The beginning balance as of October was \$17,340.72; expenditures were \$434.43; income was \$302.35; and the ending balance was \$17208.64. The monthly allowance for November 2006 is \$2,151.08. Staff was asked to revise the Trust Fund Ledger to reflect Domestic Violence Grants-Donations. The Treasurer's Report was received and filed for audit.

STAFF REPORT

There was none given.

REVIEW THE STATUS OF COMMISSION GOALS

President Lesser announced that the Commission will review its goals and look into ideas to improve their economic position at the next Commission meeting.

DISCUSSION ON THE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

President Lesser reported the various locations considered for the Commission holiday luncheon on December 11, 2006. Following discussion the Commission is in favor of Kendell's Brasserie. President Lesser directed staff to pay the \$300 room deposit from her President's Fund and place this item on the next agenda for approval.

PRESENTATION ON THE “KEEP SAFE” PROGRAM

Detective Mike Navarette, Manhattan Beach Police Department, and Jan Buike, Care Manager, Beach Cities Health District, reported on the “Keep Safe” (Keep Every Elder Protected) Coalition. Established in 2000 the program was designed to heighten awareness and help community members recognize, prevent and stop elder financial abuse.

Financial abuse or exploitations is the illegal or improper use of another individual's resources for personal profit or gain. Often this is done through scams, theft of money, property or identity, failure to provide agreed upon services and the exercise of undue influence. Statistics suggest that approximately 65,000 incidents are reported each year in California.

Elders are subject to telemarketing scams, investment fraud, conartists and other forms of elder financial abuse that strip them of their assets. They can be exploited by family members, caregivers, friends and strangers. Seniors are often unaware of these dangers. Education is the key to a safer future.

To protect yourself and others from financial exploitation; don't allow yourself to become socially isolated, avoid telemarketing, internet and door-to-door solicitations, prizes and special deals are often scams, use direct deposit for checks, cross shred all documents containing personal information, check your bank and credit card statements monthly, and keep ATM and other PIN numbers secure.

Most important report suspected crimes by contacting your local police or call the APS Elder Abuse Hotline at (877) 477-3646.

(Commissioner Pinedo joined the meeting at 11:00 a.m.)

KEEP-SAFE www.keep-safe.org presents free educational programs that can be tailored to the needs of your group or organization. The presentation includes their award-winning video call the “Caretaker”.

Following discussion, President Lesser thanked Detective Navarette and Ms. Buike for their informative presentation.

DISCUSSION ON HOLDING THE COMMISSION MEETINGS ONCE A MONTH

Commissioner Davalos opened the discussion with a suggestion to have one regular meeting each month and the second meeting date to use for Committee meetings.

(Commissioner Becerra-Jones joined the meeting at 11:13 a.m.)

Following discussion an ad-hoc committee to be chaired by Commissioner Davalos was established to analyze the Commission's options and the Committee will bring the information back to the Commission at a future meeting.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE REVISIONS TO THE TRUST FUND CRITERIA

Following discussion, on motion of Treasurer Creary, seconded by Vice President Duba, and unanimously carried, this item will be tabled to the next agenda further for revisions and an opportunity for Commissioner to send in writing their comments to the Commission office.

2007 AWARDS LUNCHEON AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Tanberg reported that the Committee met via teleconference on November 8, 2006. The Awards Luncheon will be held on Monday, March 12, 2007 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel at 11:00 a.m. The luncheon theme is "Empower, Influence and Forge Ahead" and this year's luncheon colors are Red, Black and Silver. The Nomination packet and Calling for Nomination Press Release were approved and staff will start the mailing this week. The deadline for Nominations is Wednesday, December 6, 2006.

The Committee asked staff to send letters to Christine Devine and Linda Alvarez inviting them to participate as Mistress of Ceremonies. Commissioner Freeman suggested inviting the Civil Air Patrol's Color Guard and Non-Denominational Chaplin to also participate on program. The Committee suggested Lauren Beasley and Girls At-Risk Scholarship recipients with the gift of song to sing the National Anthem. The next Commission meeting will be held on Monday, November 27, 2006 at 12:00 p.m. also staff is scheduling a site visit of the Hotel after the Committee meeting.

FINAL REPORT ON THE 5K RUN/WALK EVENT

Vice President Duba reported that the Committee had their wrap-up meeting on October 23, 2006. The 5K event was a great success with lots of media coverage and Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Katy Sullivan were in attendance. Next year the Committee will have different entertainment and may have boxed food for the VIP tent. They may also eliminate the drawing, due to low sales. The Committee also discussed implementing a T-shirt contest for the scholarship recipients. The net proceeds from this year's event totaled \$27,932.00 (copy of final report on file).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Committee: Commissioner Tanberg reported that the Health Committee met on November 9, 2006 via teleconference. She reported that King Drew Medical Center was granted a stay on Federal funding until March 2007. The Beilenson Hearings regarding the fate of King Drew was held on November 6, 2006, staff will obtain the executive summary of the hearings. The Committee will write a letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing the importance of access to health care for women in the communities surrounding King Drew Medical Center. The Office of Women's Health Policy Summit has been changed to May 24, 2007.

Domestic Violence Committee: Commissioner Rodriguez distributed a Los Angeles Times article on "Early Jail Release Rules to be Revised". The revised rules are unfair and inequitable. Under the revised rules most inmates will remain in jail longer, with the exception of child molesters, spousal abusers and some other serious offenders would see their sentences slashed.

Gender Equity: Commissioner Davalos reported that the Napa Valley Women's Commission disbanded their Commission due to lack of need. She distributed handouts on the wage project and gender equity. Also she announced that her committee is seeking members.

Legislative Committee: Commissioner Jernigan reported that women made great strides in the November 7th election. She also expressed sympathy on the passing of the daughter and son-in-law of Assemblywoman Karen Bass.

Education Committee: Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that the Education Committee will meet today following the Commission meeting to select the scholarship recipients for 2006. Several will be disqualified for incomplete applications. Staff is working with the Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office to secure a date for the orientation. The Committee decided to have the upcoming Scholarship Orientation and luncheon in the same room.

Media Committee: Commissioner Duba reported that the Media Committee met on Saturday, October 28, 2006 at the home of Commissioner Freeman.

Older Women's Issues Committee: No report given.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Genevieve Clavreul commented on the transition team for King Drew Medical Center and share news articles that she submitted regarding the Medical center.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Lesser tabled the Community Outreach until the next regular meeting of the Commission. The following Commissioners submitted their reports to staff:

Commissioner Creary attended the following:

- The Association of Black Women Physician, 25th Anniversary Fund raising Dinner at the Biltmore Hotel on October 28, 2006.
- On October 29, 2006, she attended the Special Needs Network for Developmentally Disabled fundraiser in Hancock Park.
- The 40th Anniversary Brunch Celebration-Harbor Area Chapter, the Links, Inc. at the LAX Marriot Hotel, on November 5, 2006
- The funeral services for Emilia and Michael Wright, daughter and son-In-Law of Assemblywoman Karen Bass, at Sacred Heart Chapel, Loyola Marymount University on November 11, 2006.

Commissioner Rodriguez attended the Mid Wilshire Domestic Violence Prevention Awards on October 25, 2006 at Plummer Park.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA (to be presented and placed on a future agenda):

There was none.

President Lesser wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Charlotte Lesser, President
Reiko Duba, Vice President
Ruth Creary, Ph.D., Treasurer
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Karin Davalos
Wadie Gravely
Ruth Jernigan
Michele Pinedo
Olivia Rodríguez
Bobbi Jean Tanberg
Elise ZeBrack

EXCUSED

Peggy Freeman
Janet Mummey, Esq

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Sandra Barbee, Twila P. Kerr and Nyla Jefferson, Executive Office
Rene Cruz, County Counsel

GUESTS

Genevieve Clavreul